

# Vision Statement FAQ

## ***What is a vision statement?***

A vision statement is aspirational and defines what the community values and what it envisions for itself. It is used to guide actions not by stating what specifically will be done, but by naming what is valued most then applying that to planning and decision-making: "How is this proposed action/decision/plan in alignment with our vision?"

## ***What isn't a vision statement?***

A vision statement is not a directive or explicit list of actionable items. Rather, the vision statement provides decision-making bodies with a reference point to ensure that decisions align with community values. A vision statement should stay relevant even as priorities and action items evolve.

## ***Why is it important?***

There are many reasons why the Town invested in a vision process and why we need the community to join us.

- A vision statement will help the Select Board and other Town boards and groups make decisions for the future.
- We need to update our Comprehensive Plan; a community vision will serve as the foundation for that plan.
- Grant and loan applications routinely ask for the Town's vision statement.

But perhaps most importantly... Our island is changing; we can either manage that change ourselves or let it manage us.

## ***How did we develop this vision statement?***

A Community Vision Process was conducted by the Town beginning late August 2021. The process involved public outreach, one-on-one conversations, focus groups, a community survey, and facilitated small group conversations to determine the community's values and to select priorities the Town and community should address.

The values generated during this process along with comments and feedback from the community were used to generate a draft Vision Statement. A Vision Statement Working Group used consensus to develop the Statement into a final draft which was shared with the community for feedback.

Majority support by the community and consensus from the Working Group led the Select Board to adopt the Vision Statement in January 2022.